

Report No: 5/2024

Humanitarian Response Report (February 25- 29, 2024 – 24:00)

In the wake of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip starting October 2023, and the escalation of attacks in the West Bank, the Palestine Red Crescent Society has increased its preparedness to address the humanitarian, relief, and medical needs of those affected by the Israeli attacks in the occupied Palestinian territory. This report provides an overview of the current situation in the occupied territory and the significant humanitarian interventions undertaken by PRCS' staff and volunteers across the governorates.

Southern Provinces - Gaza Strip:

Overview of the PRCS Branches during the reporting period:

(* new updates)

North Gaza Governorate:

- North Gaza Branch and its EMS Center: Endured significant destruction due to relentless bombing by Israeli forces, rendering the provision of EMS services unfeasible. The emergency response teams were thus relocated to a “safer” location in the center of Jabalia refugee camp, away from the intense bombings. An UNRWA clinic was adapted as a temporary base for providing EMS services in the North Gaza governorate with 2 ambulances and 10 medics. Due to the continuous shelling, the PRCS set up advanced medical post to deal with minor and moderated injuries since 20/11/2023.

Gaza Governorate:

- Gaza Branch and its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Center: The facilities of the Gaza branch were entirely damaged by the intense bombardment in the Tal al-Hawa region of Gaza City. Consequently, PRCS ceased its service provision as of 14/11/2023, compelling the medical and administrative staff to evacuate the area.
- PRCS Al-Quds Hospital: Suffered substantial damage from the Israeli shelling surrounding it and the direct strikes on various parts of facilities and sections. Following a siege lasting over 14 days, operations were halted, leading to the displacement of its staff, patients, and approximately 14,000 persons southward on 14/11/2023. To date, the hospital remains non-operational. It had attended to (1,169) injuries from October 2023 until 11/11/2023.

Central District:

- PRCS Branch and EMS Center: EMS and relief staff are operational 24/7 to respond to the humanitarian needs of both residents and displaced individuals within the governorate. The branch's facility in Deir al-Balah currently accommodates approximately 300 displaced people from the North Gaza region. The medical team has resumed working in the primary health care center since 15/11/2023 to receive patients and injured.

Khan Younis Governorate:

- PRCS Branch and its Service Centers: Since the onset of January, the headquarters and various PRCS service centers in Khan Younis have been subject to repeated attacks by the Israeli occupation forces. These attacks have led to casualties among the displaced seeking a safe refuge at the facility, with the numbers exceeding 7,000 individuals. Not only has the facility sustained significant damages due to the bombings, but also the Israeli occupation forces have enforced a stringent blockade around the premises, severely restricting the movement of PRCS staff and hindering their capacity to execute their humanitarian mandate within the governorate. The continuous and direct attacks necessitated the evacuation of displaced individuals through a humanitarian corridor. This was devised to safeguard their lives, particularly after the tragic loss of (27) individuals during the siege due to Israeli targeting. Faced with logistical challenges in transporting the deceased civilian martyrs, the staff were forced to bury them within the grounds of Al-Amal Hospital.
- *Al-Amal Hospital: it has repeatedly been the target of military attacks by the Israeli occupation forces, leading to significant damage to different sections and floors and threatening the life of the PRCS staff and patients. The blockade of PRCS headquarters by the military has persisted for 38 consecutive days, accompanied by continuous gunfire and shortage of medical supplies, food, water and fuel, further complicating the humanitarian situation on the ground. On 25/2, the PRCS and a United Nations team evacuated 24 patients from Al Amal hospital. Despite prior coordination with the Israeli authorities for the staff members and vehicles, Israeli forces blocked the convoy, forced patients and staff from ambulances and stripped the medics of their clothes. Three of the PRCS medics were subsequently detained, delaying the convoy for over seven hours. Two of the medics remain in detention. On 26 February, the PRCS announced the suspension of all humanitarian coordination procedures on medical missions in Gaza for 48 hours, due to “failure to ensure the safety and security of the Society’s Emergency Medical Services teams, the wounded and the sick in PRCS hospitals, centres and ambulances. The most important targets of the hospital by the occupation during the previous period:
 - ✚ Tuesday, 20\2\2024: The Israeli targeting led to the injuries of 4 of the staff and patients and to damages in the 4th floor.
 - ✚ Monday, 19\2\2024, the water desalination station is no longer functional after being hit by Israeli occupation forces.
 - ✚ Friday, 16\2\2024: It was subjected to an Israeli bombing, causing material damage to two administrative rooms, the fall of the hospital’s suspended ceilings, and the elevator breaking down.
 - ✚ Friday, 9\2\2024: The hospital was raided by military forces. During this attack, (9) members of the medical and volunteer staff, as well as nine injured individuals and their attendants were detained. The military forces also committed vandalised the hospital infrastructure, including medical and logistical equipment, VHF communication devices, and laptops. Furthermore, they also looted funds from the hospital's safe and personal belongings of patients. Ambulance vehicles were deliberately vandalized, and their keys confiscated, severely hindering the medical team's capacity for future emergency responses.

Rafah Governorate:

- PRCS Branch and EMS Center: In response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Rafah, where the displaced population exceeds 1.3 million, PRCS staff are dedicated to operating continuously to mitigate their hardships and respond to their humanitarian needs. Beyond offering emergency medical and EMS services, as well as relief support throughout the governorate, PRCS turned Al-Quds Field Hospital into a medical post because the occupation forces prevented the entry of equipment necessary to operate the field hospital. Additionally, PRCS is commissioned with the critical task of receiving, processing, and distributing aid consignments that arrive to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing, ensuring the efficient allocation of resources to PRCS centers and affiliated parties.

PRCS Humanitarian interventions in the Gaza Strip from 7/10/2023 to 29/2/2024:

(Due to the communication blackouts and operational challenges, timely updates on information and figures may be impeded.)

- Throughout the period extending from 7/10/2023 to 29/2/2024, PRCS staff have responded to a total of (17,174) injuries and have recorded (5,730) fatalities.
- The Jabalia camp's field emergency post in North Gaza remains operational, responding to (1,642) cases between 6/12/2023 and 21/2/2024.
- The medical staff at Al-Amal Hospital persist in delivering healthcare services to (59) patients & injured, whose evacuation was hindered by the critical nature of their health condition.
- In the Al-Mawasi clinic, medical teams tirelessly provide services to a growing number of displaced individuals and local residents isolated in the Al-Mawasi region, west of Khan Yunis. These areas have become inaccessible to hospitals due to extensive bombing and infrastructural disruptions. The teams have successfully provided primary care, medical evaluations, and essential medications to (11,378) cases between 10/1/2024 and 21/2/2024.
- The field medical post in Al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Yunis governorate, continues to offer support for minor to moderate injuries caused by the Israel bombings. The team responded to (2780) cases between 20/1/2024 and 21/2/2024.
- Deir Al Balah clinic, medical teams tirelessly provide services to a growing number of IDPs and residents in the area. Between 15/11/2023 and 21/2/2024, medical services were provided to (14572) cases.
- Al Attar medical point (between Khan Yunis & Rafah governorates), primary health care services were provided to (5101) cases between 5/2/2024 and 21/2/2024.

- In the park medical point (in Rafah governorate), primary health care services were provided to (9491) cases between 10\1\2024 and 21\2\2024.
- In Al Quds clinic (in Rafah governorate), primary health care and emergency services were provided to (387) cases between 18/2/2024 and 21\2\2024.
- PRCS relief teams have established a number of Internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, now sheltering (1015) families, equivalent to roughly (8120) individuals. Each family is allocated one tent, with the IDPs camps strategically located across the regions.

IDPs Camps Overview and Family Accommodation Summary:

	IDPs camps	LOCATION	OCCUPANCY
1.	IDPs Camp in cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent (Phase1)	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	300 families
2.	IDPs Camp in cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent (Phase2)	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	139 families
3.	Al-Quds Camp	Al-Mawasi, Rafah	44 families
4.	PRCS Camp 1	Al-Mawasi, Rafah	50 families
5.	PRCS Camp 2	Al-Mawasi, Rafah	50 families
	**PRCS Camp 3 – closed	Deir al-Balah -72 families	
6.	PRCS Camp 4	Deir al-Balah	50 families
7.	PRCS Camp 5	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	70 families
8.	PRCS Camp 6	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	100 families
9.	PRCS Camp 7	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	30 families
10.	PRCS Camp 8	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	20 families
11.	PRCS Camp 9	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	25 families
12.	IDPs from Al Amal	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	81 families
13.	Healthcare Staff Camp	Al-Mawasi, Khan Younis	56 families
	TOTAL	-	1015 families
14.	Al-Amal Camp	Currently under construction	-

(** The camp was closed due to heavy rains that led to its flooding).

- PRCS's teams have distributed tents to families positioned outside the designated PRCS camp, the total number is (595) tents between 1\2\2024 and 26\2\2024.
- PRCS has actively engaged in providing essential emergency relief assistance. Between 1\2\2024 and 26\2\2024, the following was distributed:
 - 📦 (3501) food parcels
 - 📦 (3995) blankets and mattresses
 - 📦 (4235) flour sacks
 - 📦 (1833) clothing parcels
 - 📦 (2964) Diaper packages
- PRCS staff & volunteers are dedicated to the ongoing delivery of community health services, health awareness activities and psycho social support services. These services are being offered across the displacement camps established by PRCS, at their medical posts, as well as in shelters managed by UNRWA. The total number of individuals benefiting from these services, from October 2023 to date, is approximately (175,528).

Northern Governorates - West Bank:

PRCS's Humanitarian Interventions in the West Bank, Including East Jerusalem (25-29/2/2024):

- Throughout this period, PRCS responded to a total of (4) fatalities and (23) injuries distributed as follows:
 - ✚ 6 injuries – live bullet
 - ✚ 4 injuries due to beating
 - ✚ 11 injuries due to tear gas
 - ✚ 2: others

From 7/10/2023 to 29/2/2024, PRCS have responded to a total of (4052) injuries and recorded (140) fatalities.

Violations against PRCS medical mission in the oPt:

PRCS staff and volunteers routinely encounter substantial risks and targeted aggressions during the missions conducted within PRCS's humanitarian mandate. These incidents not only jeopardize their safety and life but also inflict considerable damage on the PRCS's infrastructure, including its centers, buildings, and ambulance fleet. Such actions severely impede the effective delivery of critical emergency and aid services to affected. The deliberate targeting of PRCS's medical mission represents a grave infringement of international law, notably violating the Geneva Conventions. These conventions explicitly mandate the protection, respect, and facilitation of medical missions, encompassing personnel, vehicles, facilities, and hospitals adorned with the internationally recognized and safeguarded Red Crescent emblem.

In Gaza Strip:

- PRCS has lost (14) of its staff & volunteers in line of duty since October 2023 to date.
- Currently, (14) of PRCS's staff members are still in detention. The last 2 PRCS staff were detained on 25/2 while evacuation mission of 24 patients from Al Amal hospital. Despite prior coordination with the Israeli authorities through OCHA for the staff members and vehicles, Israeli forces blocked the convoy, forced patients and staff from ambulances and stripped the medics of their clothes. Three of the PRCS medics were subsequently detained, delaying the convoy for over seven hours. Then, one medic was released and kept the other two detained.

Below is a summary of the violations during the period from October 7, 2023 to February 29, 2024:

Martyrs	Injuries	Facilities	Out of service vehicles	damaged vehicles	Total # of violations recorded
14	30	53	19	28	100

In the West Bank:

- PRCS personals and ambulances frequently face attacks from the Israeli occupation forces or settlers across various regions of the West Bank. These incidents mount to violations that compromise the safety and well-being of both the medical staff and the individuals requiring urgent medical attention, posing significant risks to their lives in most cases.

Below is a summary outlining the number of reported violations from October 7, 2023 to February 29, 2024).

180 cases of Violations	
Type of violation	No. of incidents
Delay of Access	93
Denial of Access	76
Violations against Medical staff	97
Violations against Ambulance Vehicles	78
Violations against Patients and the Injured within Ambulance	99
Violations against Buildings and Facilities	1
Total	443

Emergency Appeal & Relief Aid for Gaza Strip:

- To respond to the increasing humanitarian needs arising from the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the PRCS launched its second revised emergency appeal on 12/12/2023. The appeal sought \$ 298,736,550 in funds from partners and supporters within the international Movement of the RCRC, as well as external entities. As of now, contributions from a variety of national societies, international organizations, and the private sector have fulfilled 14.93% of the requested funds.
- PRCS was mandated to receive, sort and distribute all relief aid consignments entering Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing. This operation is conducted in coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and the Gaza Strip's Ministry of Social Affairs.

- These consignments are distributed by PRCS to specified agencies, primarily including UNRWA and the Ministry of Social Affairs and others.
- During the reporting period, a total of (159) trucks of aid was received through Rafah. The PRCS share was (147) with the remaining going to other organizations.
- During the reporting period, a total of (445) aid trucks were received through the Kerem Shalom commercial crossing. The PRCS's share was (223) with the remaining going to other organizations.
- Moreover, PRCS has received (105) ambulance vehicles through generous donations from Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Arab Emirates Red Crescent, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and the Turkish Red Crescent. These vehicles were allocated according to an established mechanism in collaboration with relevant parties between 7/10/2023 and 21/2/2024.

PRCS evaluations reveal that the current allowance of truck entries into the Gaza Strip is insufficient to cover the extensive humanitarian and relief requirements of those affected. Based on analyses by our teams, the Gaza Strip necessitates the following:

1. Food parcels: 406 trucks required weekly.
2. Hygiene kits: 406 trucks required bi-weekly.
3. Dignity kits: 650 trucks required monthly.
4. Potable water: 1,279 trucks required daily.

For inquiries, please send emails to opsroom@palestinercs.org.

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